

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00516 051422Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----051435 043132 /40

R 051143Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4318
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T MANAMA 0516

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PFOR, XF, BA, SA

SUBJECT : SAUDI ROLE IN THE NEW MIDEASTFOR FORMAT

REF : STATE 045634

1. AS DEPT AWARE, GOB OFFICIALS ALWAYS HAVE MENTIONED IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WHEN COMPLAINING THAT AREA STATES WILL NOT SPEAK UP FOR MIDEASTFOR. FONMIN'S DISCUSSIONS OF HIS "NEW FORMULA" CONCEPT ALMOST ALWAYS INCLUDE IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA AS EXAMPLES OF STATES WHICH SHOULD SHARE THE BURDEN OF MIDEASTFOR. THOUGH I HAVE KEPT AWAY FROM SUBJECT IN TALKS THUS FAR, POINT WILL COME IN NEGOTIATIONS WHEN GOB WILL WANT TO KNOW FROM US WHAT OTHER AREA STATES WILL DO TO BALANCE WHAT WE WILL BE ASKING GOB TO CONTINUE TO DO EVEN UNDER NEW FORMAT.

2. WHAT SAUDIS WILL OR WILL NOT DO IN THIS REGARD IS QUESTION WHICH GOB MIGHT ASK SAUDIS DIRECTLY. SAUDI ARABIA IS THE SUN IN BAHRAIN'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNIVERSE AND I DOUBT GOB WILL MAKE A NEW DEAL WITH US WITHOUT CHECKING IT FIRST IN RIYADH. SAUDI
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ATTITUDES SUPPORTIVE OF NEW FORMAT WILL BE ESSENTIAL. AS WILL SAUDI ACTIONS IN TERMS SAG WILLINGNESS RECEIVE SHIPS MORE FREQUENTLY AND FOR LONGER PERIODS. CONCERNING SAUDI ATTITUDE TOWARD PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES, I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED -- THOUGH I HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE -- IF GOB ALREADY HAD RAISED AND CLEARED THE IDEA IN RIYADH, AT LEAST IN GENERAL TERMS.

3. OTHER SIDE OF COIN OF COURSE IS DEGREE TO WHICH A VERY FORTHCOMING SAUDI RESPONSE RE NAVY ACCESS TO SAUDI PORTS WOULD SUBSTITUTE IN GOB EYES FOR ARRANGEMENTS ELSEWHERE. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT THERE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL SUBSTITUTABILITY AND, IN ADDITION, THAT SAUDI WILLINGNESS TO OFFER SOME LOGISTICS FACILITIES, AS OPPOSED TO JUST PORT TIME, PROBABLY WOULD INCREASE GOB WILLINGNESS TO LET NAVY KEEP IMPORTANT SHORE FACILITIES HERE.

4. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE READING SOON ON SAUDI ATTITUDES AND LIKELY RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR MORE FREQUENT AND LENGTHIER SHIP VISITS, IF WE COULD DO SO WITHOUT HAVING SAUDIS REPRESENT OUR APPROACH TO THEM TO GOB AS USG CONSULTING SAG ON MATTER OF BAHRAIN SOVEREIGNTY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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